

COMPANY E.  
THIRTY-NINTH MASS. INFANTRY  
IN THE  
CIVIL WAR.

BY

John H. Dusseault

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20TH REGIMENT  
MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY  
1861-1862

LIEUTENANT COLONEL AND COLONEL  
39TH REGIMENT  
MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY  
1862-1865

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COMPANY E

# Thirty-Ninth Infantry

IN THE

# CIVIL WAR

BY

JOHN H. DUSSEAUT

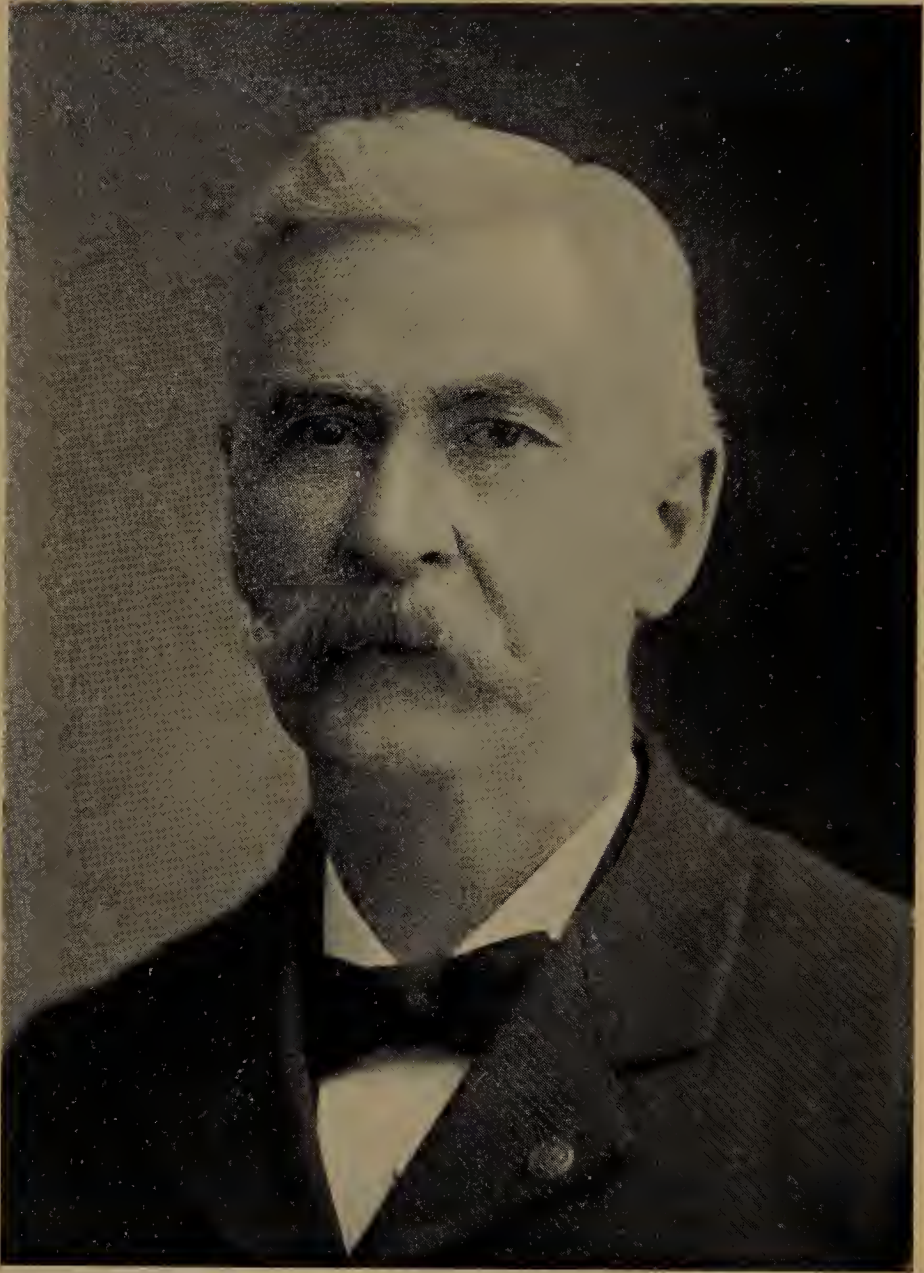


SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT

1908







LIEUTENANT JOHN H. DUSSEULT



*Charles Lamenee Peirson  
Colonel 39 Massachusetts Vol. Infantry*

COMPANY E

# Thirty-Ninth Infantry

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## COMPANY E, 39TH MASSACHUSETTS INFANTRY, IN THE CIVIL WAR.

Company E, which will go down to history as the Somerville company, was recruited during July and August, 1862, on Prospect Hill. The town, through its agents, the selectmen, encouraged the enlistments, which went on rapidly under the direction of the three officers who received their commissions through the selectmen. These officers were Captain Fred R. Kinsley, First Lieutenant Joseph J. Giles, and Second Lieutenant Willard C. Kinsley. All three had completed their term of service in Captain (later Major) Brastow's company, which enlisted for three months, the first-mentioned having been second lieutenant, and the two others privates in said company. These men were Somerville boys, although the Kinsley brothers were not natives of the town.

As is well known, a camp was pitched on Prospect Hill, and a flagstaff erected, which stood until the hill was dug down, some fifteen years later. The company was filled quickly, and our historian was one of the first to enlist.

There was the usual round of duties, drilling, and keeping guard. The days passed quickly, and the boys fared sumptuously. For, in addition to the usual rations, they received bountiful contributions from the larders of the patriotic matrons of the town.

On August 12 the company was mustered into the United States service, and on that day the non-commissioned officers stepped from the ranks as their names were called: John H. Dusseault, first sergeant; Edward A. Hale, second sergeant; Edwin Mills, third sergeant; Judson W. Oliver, fourth sergeant; Richard J. Hyde, fifth sergeant; and the usual number of corporals, viz., D. P. Bucknam, Elkanah Crosby, William M. Carr, Melville C. Parkhurst, Charles E. Fitcham, George Van De Sande, William A. Baker, and Leslie Stevens.

The company remained at Prospect Hill until September 2 when they went to Boxford, and there joined the rest of

the regiment (the Thirty-ninth Massachusetts), and came on the right of the line,—first place. Colonel Phineas Stearns Davis, of Cambridge, was in command, and September 6 the regiment left for Washington, D. C.

Amid the cheers of throngs of people, we departed from Boston in "first-class" cars, but before we reached our destination we were riding in cattle cars. This was due, of course, to the congested condition of transportation, as everything at that time was moving towards the seat of war. At Philadelphia the citizens gave the travelers a dinner, as they did to all the regiments which passed through their city. This dinner was at Cooper-Shop Eating House, a place which many Northern soldiers must remember.

We arrived in Washington September 8, and the next day went to Camp Chase at Arlington. About September 16 we marched, according to orders, towards Edward's Ferry, Md. The night of September 18 we reached Poolsville. Our course was along the upper Potomac, and the object of the expedition was to guard the river fords and stop the rebels, notably a body known as White's guerrillas, from making raids into Maryland. From Poolsville we marched five miles to Edward's Ferry, where we camped, without tents, for five weeks. The river was picketed as far as Conrad's Ferry, seven miles up stream. In October we marched back towards Washington, eight miles to Seneca, where we camped about a week, thence to Muddy Branch, where we remained until November 13. On the way back, at Offert's Cross Roads, death entered our ranks for the first time, and we lost Private Sumner P. Rollins, who had enlisted with his half-brother, Illiot Kenneston. While we were at this place, Second Lieutenant Kinsley was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant, Company H (from Dorchester). Sergeant-Major T. Cordis Clark, of Roxbury, was assigned to the vacancy in company E.

December 21 found us at Poolsville again, where we went into winter quarters. The night of our arrival was a very cold one, so cold that the water which spilled from our canteens would freeze on our clothing. This was a hard march, and many of the boys fell out by the way. Three hundred or four hundred of



us were packed away in a small schoolhouse, "thick as sardines." The next morning some of the party got over into the town and visited the grocery stores there.

That winter we were quartered in large, circular tents, called Sibley tents, which were pitched each on the top of a low stockade, that made the wall of the tent. We never saw this kind of tent after that winter. The next year each soldier was supplied with a strip of canvas five and one-half feet long, two of which when set up was called a shelter tent.

Nothing of importance happened while we were at Pools-ville. We spent the time drilling and doing picket duty, and finally, April 15, 1863, broke camp and marched for Washington in a heavy rain. The first night we camped in some woods; the next found us three miles from Georgetown, where we were quartered in some college buildings. On April 17 we went into quarters in Washington, at Martindale barracks, corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Twenty-third street. Here our regiment remained on provost guard duty until July 9. Once in June we were ordered out at night, with one hundred rounds of cartridges, to Chain Bridge, as a rebel raid was expected there. Our company was the advance guard of the regiment. At noon the next day we were marched back to the capital.

July 9. The Thirty-fourth and Thirty-ninth Massachusetts regiments took train at 10 a. m. for Harper's Ferry, sixty miles away. This, it will be remembered, was immediately after the battle of Gettysburg. No change had taken place in our company, except that Lieutenant J. J. Giles was left in Washington on detached duty at the provost-marshal's office.

I remember that we reached our destination one night about dark, and were marched off to Maryland Heights, two miles or more, and over an exceedingly rough road. Here we were brigaded with the Eighth, Forty-sixth, and Fifty-first Massachusetts militiamen, all serving for nine months, and their term of service was nearly ended. We were now a part of the Army of the Potomac.

Sunday, July 12. We left Maryland Heights at 10 p. m. to report to General Mead, who was on his way from Gettysburg,

and was now following up the Confederate army, which was still on the Maryland side, but farther up the river. We marched all night, and halted at six in the morning for breakfast. At 3 p. m. we joined the army at Funkstown, near Hagarstown, Md., having made thirty miles in seventeen hours. Much of the march had been over a very rough road. To be explicit, ours was the Fourth brigade, Second division, First army corps, and under General John Newton. We were an extra brigade.

July 13. We skirmished all day.

July 14. Though being ordered to move early, we did not get under way until 2 p. m. We passed over the rebels' works, now deserted, and after a distance of seven miles, halted at Williamsport. Here our Somerville company was detailed as guard at General Newton's headquarters.

July 15. We marched at 6 a. m. across Antietam Bridge, passed through Keedersville, and halted at Ruersville for the night. This was a hard day; from twenty-six to twenty-eight miles had been covered, under a boiling sun, and there were many cases of sunstroke.

July 16. At 6 a. m. we set out for Berlin's Station, close to the Potomac, and ten miles away. Here we remained until July 18, when we crossed the river into Virginia. That night, after a march of twelve miles, we were at Waterville. This seemed to be a Quaker settlement. The next day we moved on ten miles to Hamilton.

July 20. Up at 2 a. m. Moved at 5 o'clock; crossed many small streams and forded Goose Creek, which was about one hundred yards wide, and in some places four feet deep. We marched about twenty-five miles, and at 5.30 halted at Middleburg.

July 22. Moved at 7 p. m., and marched all night; halted at 3 a. m. in White Plain. Here we slept four hours, and at 7 a. m. —July 23—pushed on to Warrington, a distance of fifteen miles, and reached there that afternoon. For the first time we encamped in line of battle, as the enemy were not more than three or four miles away. Both armies, it must be remembered, were having a grand race for the Rappahannock river. At Warrington the nine-months' men above referred to left us, as their time

was out, and we were put in another brigade, with the Thirteenth Massachusetts, Sixteenth Maine, Ninety-fourth New York, and One Hundred and Seventh Pennsylvania.

July 25. We moved early, and went fourteen miles that morning—four miles of it was out of our way—and six miles more that afternoon and evening. It rained hard all the way, and at 1 o'clock in the morning, July 26, we reached Bealton station. Here we lay down to sleep, with clothes wet through and our shoes in a wretched condition. At 10 a. m. we pushed on for Rappahannock station, only four miles away, through fields, etc.,—a very rough route. The march consumed six hours. Here our brigade, with Buford's cavalry, picketed one bank of the river, and the Confederates the other.

We remained in this position until August 1, when we were ordered across the river, where we worked all that night building breastworks. The enemy did not attack us. August 4, while lying in our works, we witnessed part of a cavalry fight in which our side held their ground.

August 5. All quiet. To-day we were paid off to July 1.

August 8. Our brigade re-crossed the river, as a change had been made in the lines, and we remained at Rappahannock station more than a month. There was not much doing all this time, but preparations were going on for a general advance. At 6 a. m. on September 16, we crossed the river on pontoons to a point near Culpeper, C. H., twelve miles, where we could hear cannonading ahead of us every day.

September 24. We marched eight miles, and at 4 p. m. halted at Raccoon Ford, on the Rapidan. Here we relieved the Twelfth army corps. Two miles farther on, September 27, we went into quarters at Camp Nordquest. We were now employed in picketing the Rapidan.

October 2. The whole division marched out one mile, in the rain, and forming three sides of a hollow square, saw a deserter from the Ninetieth Pennsylvania regiment shot. We remained at Camp Nordquest until October 9, when we turned out at 11 p. m., and stood in line till 3 a. m. of the next day, waiting for orders, when we marched. Arriving at Morton's Ford we again set out at 8 p. m., and marched to Pony Plain—twelve

miles—arriving there at midnight. On these marches a soldier, with his gun, knapsack, forty rounds of ammunition, haversack, rations, etc., was carrying between forty and sixty pounds.

We now come to the first serious disaster which befell our company. Our pickets had been taken off at 10 p. m., October 10, and marched back to Camp Nordquest for their rations. They were under the command of Captain John Hutchins, of Company C (Medford). They secured their rations, but on their return, as there was some delay and the night was dark, some of them lost their way. The consequence was the enemy captured thirteen men, all from our regiment, and seven of them from Company E. These were Sergeant R. J. Hyde, Privates F. J. Oliver, Henry Howe, Joseph Whitmore, and Washington Lovett, all of whom died in Andersonville prison, and Corporal G. W. Bean and Private J. W. Oliver. The former was in prison seventeen months, until March, 1865, when he was paroled; the latter was more fortunate, being paroled after three or four months of imprisonment. The capture took place near Stevensburg, five or six miles from their regiment.

October 11. We turned out soon after midnight, and were ordered to be ready at a moment's notice. 11 a. m., we marched to Kelley's Ford, on the Rappahannock. We forded the river, and took up a position (on the Washington side) in some rifle pits, three or four feet deep. This was to cover the river. The enemy, it will be understood, had flanked our army on the river and were making for our rear. It was a cold, chilly night, about the same as the weather at home at that season. We had nothing for protection but our shelter tents, and as everything was wet, it was almost impossible to make a fire.

October 13. We marched at 1 a. m., and arrived at 11 a. m. at Warrington Junction. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon we marched again, and reached Bristow station at 10 o'clock that night.

October 14. Marched at 7 a. m., and reached Centerville at noon. At 4 p. m., we set out for Bull Run, which was not far away. We saw the famous battlefield several times in the course of this season. The entire regiment was ordered on picket, and



Company E was ordered to follow the Run until they met the pickets of the Sixth corps (Sedgwick's). We went about three miles, crossing Cub Run, but not finding any pickets, the division officer of the picket Major Leavitt (of the Sixteenth Maine) went ahead alone on horseback and left us in a field. Returning in less than an hour, he reported a rebel cavalry camp in our front. We retraced our way hurriedly, and after going about a mile and a half, were halted by our own pickets. We then learned that we had been more than a mile beyond our own lines. On calling the roll, I, as first sergeant, found twelve were missing, and so reported. Major Leavitt would allow no one to go back, but went himself, and found the men fast asleep in the field where we had been. Like a good shepherd he brought them all in. After that no one ever heard a word uttered against this officer; not many majors in the service would have done as much for their men.

October 15. The pickets were drawn in at 11 a. m., and we marched to Cub Run. Orders came for our regiment to take a position to support the pickets on our front, as heavy firing was going on in close proximity to the picket line. It will be remembered that this came near to being a third Bull Run, but we had the better position and the enemy withdrew.

October 19, 1863. We marched at 8 a. m. for Haymarket on the Manassas Railroad, and arrived at 3 p. m. At 4 p. m. on the next day we set out again, passing through Thoroughfare Gap, in the Bull Run Ridge making camp at 10 p. m. We remained in this neighborhood until the twenty-fourth, when we marched to Kettle Run, where we found the railroad badly used up. As we had orders to guard a bridge over the Run, we stayed here till November 5. All this while the enemy were very near, and both sides were manoeuvring to get the better position. At 4 p. m. that day we started for Catlett's Station, and arrived there at 8.30 p. m. November 7 found us at sunset, after a march of seventeen miles, at Morrisville. The next day we had an all-day's march, sixteen or seventeen miles. November 8 crossed the Rappahannock, and halted four miles beyond the River at Brandy Station. November 9, at 5 p. m., we marched for Licking Run, about fifteen miles away, and reached there late at

night, in the midst of a snowstorm. About an inch of snow was on the ground. The men were pretty well demoralized and, to put it mildly, there was considerable grumbling. My commission as second lieutenant, Company H, signed by Governor Andrew, and dated October 20, reached me the next day.

November 10. I stopped grumbling.

November 23. We marched from 7.30 a. m. to 11 p. m., arriving at Rappahannock Station. (The orders for all this marching and counter-marching were issued by General Meade to the corps commanders.)

We remained here until November 26, when we crossed the Rappahannock at 8 a. m. By 6.30 p. m. we had crossed the Rapidan, also, thus traversing the peninsula between the two rivers on our way eastward towards Richmond. That night we camped on the heights, a mile from the last-named river.

November 27. We marched at 6.30 a. m. on the Richmond side, and reached Robertson's Tavern at midnight. The enemy were just in front of us. The next morning, after a short march, we came close up to them at Mile Run and drove in their pickets. (The whole Army of the Potomac, spread out as they were, must have extended over many miles.) Companies E and C were deployed to skirmish and cover the front of our brigade. The First Corps (ours) was in the centre; the Second and Sixth were on our right, the Third and Fifth to our left. Our regiment formed part of the front line, second division, of the corps.

November 29. Our division lay in position all day; cannonading lasted till dark, but there was no infantry engagement.

November 30. In the morning we marched a mile to the right, and lay in line of battle all day.

December 1. We returned to our position of the twenty-ninth (centre), and remained until 4 p. m., when our army began to retreat to the Rapidan. The enemy had the better position. While here we were only a few miles from the battlefields of Chancellorsville, and of the Wilderness which was yet to be. General Warren, the saviour of Gettysburg and chief engineer of the Army of the Potomac at that time, but now in command of the Second Army Corps, had explained to General Mead the true

state of affairs, and this caused the withdrawal of our troops. On our retreat we reached Germania Ford on the south bank, and bivouacked at 10 p. m. The First Corps covered the crossing of the Fifth and Sixth Corps the next morning (December 2), and our regiment was the last to cross. That night we bivouacked at Stevensburg.

December 3. We went into camp at Kelley's Ford, on the south side of the Rappahannock, where we occupied log houses which General Lee's army had built for winter quarters. They had been driven from these November 7 by our Third Corps. Here we remained till December 24. The huts were far from being clean and wholesome.

December 24. We marched to a point on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, about four miles beyond Culpeper, where we bivouacked two days, and then marched at night still farther on to a point beyond the cavalry reserves, and formed the extreme outpost of the army, near Mitchell's Station. Here we suffered much from severe storms—snow and rain—until quarters were built. January 1, 1864, the boys were hard at work erecting houses seven feet by fifteen feet, which were to accommodate eight men each. Each regiment thus took its turn while in this camp, which was until April 26, 1864. One regiment of our brigade would be under arms during the twenty-four hours of the day, with guns stacked, watching for the enemy. This camp was at the foot of Cedar Mountain, four miles from the Rapidan, and five miles in advance of our main army. We occupied a post of great danger, as well as of honor. The camp was one of the finest in the army. We remained here all winter, and during the time the Confederates went around our rear twice and felt of our army, but never molested us. Two incidents of that winter stand out in memory. The first occurred January 5, when seven Rebel soldiers, in wretched plight, found their way into our camp and surrendered. It is needless to say they were received hospitably and were allowed to fill up from Uncle Sam's rations. The other event, in marked contrast with this one, was a visit of inspection from General U. S. Grant—~~February 8.~~ *April*

Camp was broken up April 26, when we marched about a mile and set up our shelter tents. Here we remained until May

3. We were now having fine weather. At 12 o'clock that night we were ordered to pack up, and at 3 a. m., May 4, marched back to Stevensburg, where we joined our corps, the Fifth. (The First Corps had been consolidated with the Fifth some time before this.) At noon of that day we crossed the Rapidan, and halted about five miles south of the river, after a hard march of twenty miles. We bivouacked at a spot from which the countless fires of our whole army could be seen, a most impressive sight. This was in "The Wilderness."

Thursday, May 5. We turned out at 3 a. m. and marched at 6, about two miles, and halted with the enemy in full force in our front. The Battle of the Wilderness was opened by the First and Third Divisions of our corps at 10 a. m. General Warren was in command of the corps, General Griffin of the First Division, and General Crawford of the Third. Colonel Peter Lyle commanded our brigade. They drove the enemy for a while, but were finally forced back. Our division, the Second, together with the Fourth, took their places and repulsed the enemy, who fell back through an opening in the woods and made a stand among the trees, about a quarter of a mile from our line. The whole Thirty-ninth Regiment was in this engagement, Colonel P. Stearns Davis in command, Captain Fred R. Kinsley over Company E, and Captain C. N. Hunt over Company H, Dorchester. The other companies of this regiment were Company K, Woburn, under Captain W. C. Kinsley; Company C, Medford; B, of Roxbury; D, of Quincy; I, of Natick; F, of Taunton; A, of Peabody; G, of Scituate and Boston. That night the field between the two armies was strewn with dead and wounded men, mangled horses, and broken cannon. Our regimental loss was twenty, killed and wounded. Company E lost none. My Company (H) lost six, two killed and four wounded.

We lay in this position all that afternoon and during the night which followed. At 4 p. m. we attempted to make a charge, but were repulsed, with a heavy loss to the division. The regiment on our left, the Ninetieth Pennsylvania, on account of the opening in the woods, was exposed to the enemy's view and encountered the concentrated fire of their battery. This regiment had 400 men in line; they came out with 150. They



met this heavy loss while going only as many yards. While we were in the woods the Confederate batteries raked the trees right down upon us. That night was the worst I ever experienced in the service. As soon as night came on, the wounded men in front began to cry pitifully for water and for help. A truce was arranged, and men from both sides went out to collect their dead and wounded comrades. But from some misunderstanding the truce lasted only about a half-hour. Firing commenced again on our right (Sixth Corps), which was kept up all through the night. (Our corps stood between the Second and the Sixth). The Cavalry was on our flanks and rear. Our position was near Mine Run, in a thick growth of trees, most of them pines.

The next morning the Sixth Corps was relieved by the First Division of our corps. There was hard fighting all along the line. About 11 a. m. we were ordered to the rear. It seems that the Ninth Corps, which had moved forward into some woods about this time, had broken, and we were sent back to support them. We marched three miles—weather extremely hot—and built some breastworks there. This was at the left of our position of the day before. A fearful fight went on that afternoon from 4 to 6 o'clock. Fortunately no one in Company E was injured. That night I was detailed on skirmish line. There was not much rest for some of us, but the line snatched a little sleep at intervals.

Humorous incidents were not lacking during the eventful and strenuous days of this campaign, and the following is mentioned merely in illustration: Our line lay along a plank road, and we had breastworks ten feet away and parallel to the road. About midnight, while the boys were endeavoring to get a little sleep, a great racket was heard not far away, and some in their alarm thought the whole Rebel army was upon us. It proved to be a stampede among our own cattle, and they came bellowing down the space between the planks and the works, and over the prostrate forms of our men. The choice language of the startled sleepers, when they came to understand the situation, added not a little to the tumult. On the sixth quiet reigned for a short time only, for from 4 to 6 o'clock p. m. the enemy tried

in good earnest to get possession of the road, and made three, four, yes, five charges in front of us. A Rebel prisoner, apparently wounded and just able to crawl about, on hearing the shouts of his compatriots so near, and dreading to fall into their hands, much to the amusement of our soldiers, jumped up a well man and ran like a deer towards our rear.

May 7. At an early hour our forces were turned out to strengthen the long line of breastworks. There was not much firing between the two armies till 8 o'clock. From that time heavy skirmishing and the thunder of artillery continued all day. At 5 p. m. our division went to the rear, about a mile, and had supper. It must be understood that our division was the advance of the Army of the Potomac from the Battle of the Wilderness till that of Spottsylvania, and this was the beginning of the movement which led up to the latter conflict. Those who took our places kept up the skirmish while we were marched off towards Spottsylvania. We started at 9 p. m., and began one of those famous left flank movements of General Grant's. We marched all night, and halted at 5 a. m. on May 8. At 6 o'clock we were near Alsop's Farm. Moving forward a mile, we found the enemy's cavalry disputing the road with our cavalry. Thereupon the regiment (Thirty-ninth Massachusetts), with the rest of the brigade, was ordered to support the cavalry. A bayonet charge was made which drove their cavalry, then a battery, and finally brought us face to face with the enemy's infantry strongly posted behind breastworks. It seems that Longstreet's Corps had started out about the same time we had. He had been wounded and Anderson was in command.

The enemy had the start of us, and they were also superior in numbers, as they had a whole corps, and we only a division. After a hard fight, the Union forces were obliged to fall back over an open field. In this action the Thirty-ninth Massachusetts came off with ninety-three men killed, wounded, and missing. Company E lost William D. Palmer, killed, and had five men wounded, viz.: Thomas Hyde, John E. Horton, George A. Northey, who was captured by the enemy, William J. Arnold, and John H. Dusseault (originally of this company), who was wounded in the breast, but providentially saved by an army

button. His diary says: "I was within thirty feet of the enemy's breastworks, and when hit I was sure I was killed, as the force of the blow caused me to spin round and round like a top, and I fell to the ground. Finding I was not seriously hurt, I jumped up and joined in the retreat. We were driven back about a mile, when Griffin's division met us and stopped the retreat. This event happened about 9 o'clock in the morning. General Robinson, commander of our division, lost a leg in this action. When we came back we found Captain W. C. Kinsley, of Company K, in tears. 'Look at my company!' he cried, 'only seven left out of eighty-seven!' But he was assured that the woods were full of our men, and that his would be in shortly. It proved to be so. We were not called on for the rest of the day, and that night the men obtained some sleep."

J. H. Dusseault has a very distinct remembrance of General Grant as he appeared on the first day of the Wilderness, May 5. It was unfortunate for the Union forces that these two battles accomplished so little. Our side lost two or three men to the enemy's one. From May 4 to January 1, 1865, General Grant lost more than eighty-nine thousand men; General Lee had only ninety thousand altogether.

The Battle of Spottsylvania began at Alsop's Farm May 8. May 9 we turned out at 3 a. m., drew our rations, and went to the right. Meanwhile our guns were playing on Lee's wagon train, which was moving to our left. There was not much fighting this day. Beginning with the day before, we built not less than three lines of breastworks, one during the night, one at early dawn, and one that day. General Sedgwick, a regular army man, and the commander of the Sixth Corps, was shot that night. This sad event occurred just in front of our position. Later that same night—and it was a dark one, too—I was detailed to go back to the Ordinance train for ammunition. I had sixty men from the five different regiments of our brigade to help me. I was ordered to bring twenty-five thousand rounds (twenty-five boxes). We had secured the requisite amount and were returning to the brigade in the thick darkness. As it took two men to carry a box, which was supported on a blanket between them, it was impossible to keep the men together, and as I did not know them,

many of them dropped their burdens and ran away. When we got back to our camping place we learned that the brigade had moved on a mile and a half farther. When I came up to my superior officer, I had but seven boxes to deliver to him. Rousing from his sleep, he ordered me to go back immediately and secure the rest, and then turned over and went to sleep again. It had to be done, and about 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning I reported the second time, not with the lost boxes, but with enough others that had been obtained in a way which I will not stop to explain.

May 10. At Laurel Hill. Here we engaged again with the enemy, and occupied a position in front of a line of works, while the firing of musketry and artillery went on over our heads. Thus we remained for seven hours, making no active demonstration. The Union side suffered heavy loss from the artillery. About dusk we made a charge, but were repulsed. That day nine of our regiment were killed and forty-six were wounded. Corporal Samuel O. Felker and Private Robert Powers, of Company E, were killed by the same shell. Lieutenant Mills and George R. Harlow were wounded. J. H. Dusseault was also wounded, in the left elbow. We lay in the woods that night and kept pretty quiet.

May 11. Not much fighting, as rain set in at 5 p. m. and continued all through the night.

May 12. Still raining. Heavy firing on our left. Hancock's Corps (the Second) had charged the enemy's works at daylight; these were captured and a whole division of troops. But the works had to be abandoned later, as we could not hold them. At noon that day we were ordered back to the place from which we made our charge on May 10. The only difference was that two lines were in front of us now; on May 10 we were in front. Both of these lines broke, however, and we were ordered out, and moved to the left into some breastworks. At this time there were lost out of Company E David Gorham and William Odiorne, both being wounded. J. H. Dusseault received a slight wound in the right arm.

May 13. Our division went to the rear about 8 a. m., but in about an hour we moved forward into breastworks again, and



lay there all day. The enemy were within firing distance. At 10 p. m. we fell into line and marched all night, to the left. The roads were in very bad condition, owing to the recent rains. We crossed two small streams—the Po and the Ny—and halted at 6 a. m., having made but seven miles.

May 14. We did not do much this day, on account of the deep mud. The enemy shelled us, but we did not return the compliment. By this time it must be understood the men had thrown away or lost their shelter tents, and had left behind almost everything of their outfits, except their rubber blankets. At 9 p. m. we turned in, as often, under the open canopy of heaven.

May 15. We turned out at 7 a. m., keeping quiet all that day, but expecting an attack. The enemy, however, made no demonstration. Had a good night's sleep. We were still at Spottsylvania, for our progress had been in a circular direction. The town, which consisted of a court house and a few other buildings, was two or three miles in front, where the enemy were.

May 16. There was very little firing.

May 17. Very warm weather. We marched to the right and threw up more breastworks.

May 18. Pleasant and warm. I was detailed for picket at 9 a. m. Our brigade moved to the left, and the pickets joined the regiment. There was heavy cannonading, and shells were striking all around us. About 3 p. m. we moved to the right, and at 11 p. m. marched back to the breastworks which we built the night before. Fighting that day was going on mostly upon our right.

May 19. We lay in the breastworks all day; pickets were drawn in at 5 p. m., when the Rebels began to shell us. Our batteries opened on them, and they soon ceased firing. The hard fighting on our right continued. Early's Corps made a charge on our wagon train, which was in our rear, by coming around on our flank; our troops met and repulsed this charge, but there was a heavy loss on both sides. The First Division of our corps was in this fight, the First Massachusetts Heavy Artillery being in the thickest of it. We were fortunate enough to get some sleep that night.

May 20. All was quiet.

May 21. We turned out at 4 a. m., moving to the left at 10. The enemy began to shell us, and we moved back. A little past noon we again moved to the left, marching thirteen miles to Guinness Station. Heavy firing ahead of us. The whole army has left Spottsylvania now, and our corps is in the rear. A very hot day.

May 22. After a good sleep, we turned out at 3 a. m., lay under arms till 11 a. m., when we marched twelve to fifteen miles, as far as Bull's Church. A very hot day again. We find ourselves out of rations.

May 23. Turned out at 4 a. m., marched at 5.30, about twelve miles, and halted near North Anna River. This was at 10 o'clock. At 3 in the afternoon we crossed this river. About a half-hour later, when part of our corps was over, Hill's Rebel Corps charged us. The river here has high banks on both sides, in some places thirty to fifty feet high, so that we could not retreat without heavy loss. Our opponents came within six or eight feet of us, then broke and went for some woods. We pursued, but as it grew dark we fell back out of the woods for fear of an ambush. Company E had two men wounded, Corporal George Myers and Private William Moulton. The enemy's loss must have been considerable. We lay close to the river all night and all the next day (May 24). Our skirmishes advanced, but found no enemy except Rebel stragglers, who were coming in all day. We turned in at 9, a storm threatened.

May 25. As it happened there was no rain, we were turned out at 3 a. m. An hour later we marched about a mile to the left and threw up breastworks. Smart skirmishing was going on in front of us. That afternoon our artillery shelled the enemy. They made no reply, but their sharp-shooters picked off a number of our men. We lay quiet all that night.

May 26. We turned out at 4 in a rain which continued an hour or more. Heavy skirmishing went on nearly all day. We moved at 9 p. m., under orders not to speak a word above a whisper. This was a hard march. About 1 o'clock a. m. we re-crossed the North Anna, and at 2.30 a. m. halted to draw three days' rations, which we were told must last for six days. An hour later we moved again, and marched almost continuously

until 8 o'clock, when we halted for breakfast. At 11 a. m. the march was resumed. (All this marching was a left flank movement.) At 7 p. m. we arrived at Hanover town. This ended a hard march of twenty-two hours. We had not had our clothes off in twenty-four days. No one thought of washing his face, much less of taking a bath. It can be imagined in what a filthy condition we were. This state of things lasted from May 4 to June 16.

May 28. We turned out at 4 and marched at 6, crossing the Pemunky River near Newcastle. We halted three miles from the river at noon, built breastworks, and passed the night. Richmond was about fifteen miles from us.

May 29. The march was resumed at 10 a. m., and two miles were covered. Our regiment passed along the line of works to the extreme left, to guard some crossroads; here breastworks were constructed, and the regiment went on picket. It added to the discomfiture that we were out of rations.

May 30. The regiment came off picket duty and rejoined the brigade, which had been left alone, at 8 a. m., and after a short march we overtook the main column. The enemy had been found near Bethesda Church, and our troops were placed in line of battle. Our regiment was assigned its position, skirmishers were thrown out, and works thrown up. In the afternoon the skirmishers became engaged with the enemy, and were able to hold their line. This was to be the condition of things for our regiment until June 5.

May 31. We were in line of battle early, and some skirmishing took place. Lieutenant Dusseault was detailed to go on the skirmish line. (For the benefit of the uninitiated, it is explained that the skirmishers take positions five paces apart, and are supposed to push as near the enemy as possible, nearer, of course, in the woods than in open ground; every man seizes his opportunity from rocks or trees to move up nearer.)

Thus ended the month of May, 1864, but to describe all the experience of those thirty-one days would be impossible. Suffice it to say, some of them were perfectly terrible. The whole army had been on the move since May 3, a state of things which was to continue until June 16.

On the skirmish line that night I became completely ex-

hausted. We were now a mile and a half in advance of our main line. The sergeant with me was of the One Hundred and Fourth New York. I left him in charge, lay down and went to sleep. About midnight, when it was "dark as pitch," he roused me with the words: "They are coming! They are coming!" It seems the enemy were marching in one long, steady column towards our right. They were so near we could hear their voices, and their tramping shook the earth where we lay. In the morning we found their earthworks empty, and we so reported it at headquarters.

June 1. The day was pleasant, but a hot one. As I have stated, our skirmish line, about a mile and a half from our main force, was in the woods and close up to the enemy. At day-break when we found their works vacated, I reported to division officer of the picket, Major Pierce, of the Thirteenth Massachusetts, who ordered me to advance my line. But just as I was about to do so we found the enemy were moving back to our left. They passed within three hundred feet of our picket line, which thus found itself in a rather delicate situation. It is safe to say their flankers came as near as two hundred feet, and we did not dare to move during the hour or more which it took them to pass. There must have been five or six thousand of them. Finally they halted and slipped into their old works. Just then the Ninth New York Regiment, deployed as skirmishers, advanced to relieve us. They made so much noise that the enemy opened fire, and several of the New York boys were killed or wounded. The enemy must have thought it was our whole line advancing, for they shelled the woods in great shape. We lay close, but when there came a lull, we would fall back, and thus gradually regained the regiment, where we went to building earthworks. About 7 p. m. we moved to the left into an open field, where we threw up a new line of works. This made the eighteenth line of breastworks since we started on this campaign, May 3. This is known as the battle of Cold Harbor. We were more fortunate than the Second and Eighteenth Corps (Hancock's and Baldy Smith's), which had the brunt of the battle. It will be remembered that the Eighteenth Corps was part of General Butler's army which joined us here, coming up



from the South. Both corps were on our left. There was a terrible fight on all that day till 9 p. m. We could hear the roar of it all. The Union loss was about ten thousand men. Later General Grant acknowledged that the attack of Cold Harbor was a mistake.

June 2. At daybreak minie balls began to fly over our heads. Our skirmish line advanced and drove the enemy into the woods. About 6 o'clock that morning they charged Cutler's Division of our corps, which was at our left, and the Thirty-ninth Massachusetts was ordered to their support. The enemy was repulsed. That day, the second day of Cold Harbor, the cannonading was heavy, although most of the time it was raining, but that night all was quiet.

June 3. About 4 in the morning an artillery fight began, which continued nearly all day. For noise and tumult this surpassed anything I had heard up to this time. No one of Company E was injured. The weather cleared at 3 p. m., and there was comparative quiet until the next morning.

June 4. We were on the move, towards the left, till about noon, and took up our position in the works which we built June 1. All was quiet until 8 o'clock at night, when a fight began to the left of us; it lasted about an hour. Rain which began at 5 p. m. kept up all night.

June 5. We turned out at 4 a. m. and moved to the right in the midst of rain. Here we lay behind earthworks all day. Quiet prevailed until 8.30 p. m., when a charge was made upon our left. This attack was repulsed after an hour's fighting. At 9, or later, we moved again to the left, and halted at midnight near Cold Harbor, where we turned in for the night.

Monday, June 6. We turned out at 7 a. m. The day was warm and pleasant. At 6 p. m. orders came to be ready to march, but at 8 o'clock we were notified that we could pitch tents. The teams came up, and the officers got at their valises. This was the first all day's rest since May 3.

June 7. We lay here (near Cold Harbor) all day. About noon orders came for us to pack up, but for some reason we did not march. At 6 p. m. we made camp, and turned in at 9. A quiet, restful day; some of the men drew new clothing.



June 8. Another quiet day, warm; the teams came up again; nothing doing.

June 9. Another day of quiet. Once in a while we hear the boom of a cannon, but it does not trouble us. The enemy are within one-half mile of our front. Doubtless some of their troops, as well as our own, were in motion somewhere, but we did not know of it.

June 10. We lay in our works all day; received a mail from home; turned in at 10 p. m.

June 11. We were called out at 3 in the morning, marched at 6, a distance of eight miles. We halted at 11 a. m. near Bottom's Bridge, on the Chickahominy River. Company B and Company H (mine) were detailed for picket, and were stationed two miles from the bridge. I wrote home and enclosed a Richmond "Whig" of May 20. (It is to-day in a good state of preservation.)

June 12. We returned from picket at 11 a. m., and our regiment had an inspection by the brigade commander, Colonel Peter Lyle, of the Ninetieth Pennsylvania. This lasted a half-hour, after which we were ordered to fall in and stack arms. At 6 p. m. we were on the march again till 10.30 that night, when we halted for supper. This was a fine day, but pretty hot.

June 13. We resumed our march at 1 a. m., and crossed the Chickahominy near Long Bridge on pontoons just before daylight. There was some slight skirmishing. At 6 a. m. we marched for two hours, covering about two miles only, and formed in line of battle. We were now in White Oak Swamp, between the James River and the Chickahominy, and the skirmishing was lively. While the enemy were shelling us we threw up breastworks. It seems that they had charged on the right of our division in the forenoon, and our Third Brigade had given way, but we managed to hold our line. Our division was alone here, as the balance of our corps was some distance in the rear. General Grant behind us was rushing his whole army across the peninsula to the James, while we in front were making this demonstration. Richmond was before us, but seven to ten miles away. Our action, of course, was a bluff. After dark we moved away very quietly, as we were under orders not to speak above a

whisper. We marched all night, and came to a halt just before daybreak.

June 14. At 6 a. m. we were in motion again, and after covering six or eight miles, halted at 10 o'clock near Charles City Court House, not far from the James. During this time the Second Corps was crossing the river. We remained here, out of rations, the rest of the day, and turned in for a cool and comfortable night at 8 p. m. The next day, also, we kept this position, and nothing worthy of record happened, except that we drew four days' rations, and by 6 p. m. the Second Corps had finished crossing the river.

June 16. We were turned out at 2 a. m. for a march of about three miles, and halted at the banks of the James. Our brigade crossed on the transport "General Howard," and by 9 we were landed on the southern side. The Seventh Massachusetts were just about taking transports for home, as their term of service had expired. Our men had a bath in the James River, the first since May 3. At the least calculation, five thousand men were in the water with me. At 4 o'clock that afternoon marching was resumed until 10.30 p. m., when we halted in some woods and had supper. Ten miles must have been covered. (We were now on the right of our army. The left flank was now the front. When we crossed the Chickahominy we were in the advance, but when we came to the James we were in the rear.)

June 17. We turned out at 1 a. m. and marched at 3 a. m., as there was fighting on our front. At 9 o'clock we halted in the rear of some breastworks. Some of our army had come up against the enemy at Petersburg. At 6 p. m. we go forward again. All that night there is lively fighting on our front (the left). Lieutenant Wyman, of my company (H), and several others are wounded. About midnight Captain Willard C. Kinsley is slightly injured in the head by a spent ball. We have no sleep that night. We are within two miles, good shelling distance, of Petersburg. Thus we spent Bunker Hill Day, 1864.

June 18. At 7 a. m. we advanced through woods and dug some pits, but went forward again, and at noon occupied the Norfolk Railroad at a point where there was a deep cut between banks that were twenty-five or thirty feet high. At 7.30 in the

evening, when it was dark, we advanced rapidly across a ravine which was just beyond. In that short run two men of Company E were wounded, John E. Fuller and John O. Sullivan; George Farrar was wounded later the same day. Heavy skirmishing went on all that day, and an artillery duel in the afternoon. The officers had been ordered to brigade headquarters, where they were informed that there was to be a night attack. By this time our forces had taken two of the enemy's lines of works, and now we were expecting to charge on their third. But the order for some reason was changed to a backward movement, which brought us on the other bank, where breast-works were again thrown up. Later we lay back of them in a position exposed to the enemy, who woke us next morning by firing at us from close range.

June 19. We lay in our works with shells and bullets flying around us all day. Our works were about five hundred yards from the enemy's, and our skirmishers were across the ravine on a side hill. As soon as it was dark we went to work on our entrenchments. (Comment: We made a mistake, in my opinion, that we did not charge the enemy that night, for it seems as if we could have gone into <sup>Petersburg</sup> ~~Richmond~~ just as well as not. But Grant was with us, and the countermand must have come from him.)

June 20. I am twenty-four years old to-day. Last night we worked until 2 o'clock, and were turned out again at 4 this morning. The enemy's sharp-shooters are on the lookout for the man careless enough to show himself.

June 21. We are in our works all day; pleasant weather. I was detailed for picket at 9 p. m. As we were expecting a charge from the enemy, there was no sleep for picket or brigade.

June 22. I am on picket all day; still pleasant. Two of my detail were hit: Barden, of Company A, in the head, and killed; Corporal Fitts, of Company H, in the foot. I was relieved at 10 p. m., and went back to my regiment. I had just reached it when heavy firing was directed right upon us.

June 23. A fine day, but warm. T. P. Harris, of my company, was hit in the head and killed at 8 a. m. There were

rumors of a move to-day to some other part of the line, but we remained here all night.

June 24. Just before daylight we moved to the left, the enemy shelling us all the while. We were sent up to the first line to relieve a part of the Second Corps, and stayed there all day. The time of the Twelfth Massachusetts expires and they leave for home to-day. To-night, as on the previous nights, half of our men are kept awake, that we may not be taken by surprise. This state of things continued night after night.

June 25. We turned out at daylight. The recruits and re-enlisted men of the Twelfth Regiment, one hundred and twenty-five in number, were transferred to our regiment. Company E, as it was reduced in numbers, had eighteen of them. At 8 p. m. there was an alarm, and we fell into line to receive the enemy, but they did not charge us.

June 26. Not much doing. We drew clothing, and turned in at 9 p. m. Pleasant and warm.

June 27. We turned out at 2 a. m., expecting an attack, but none was made. A shower of rain fell at 6 p. m. We turned in at 9 and had a good sleep. We were still so near the enemy that their pickets and ours could converse without raising their voices very much.

June 28. We turned out at 5 a. m. Quiet all day; hardly any picket firing. Orders came at 2 o'clock to pack up at 5. We threw up a new line of works near our picket line. The evening was cool and comfortable. We turned in at midnight.

June 29. Weather comfortable; all quiet; turned in at 9 o'clock.

June 30. Cool weather. We were mustered for pay at 9 a. m. All quiet, and we turned in at 10 p. m.

July 1. Cool and comfortable. We turned out at 5 a. m. Had a roll-call. The regiment received from the sanitary commission roast turkey, condensed milk, soft bread, lemons, and tobacco. Another quiet day, and we turned in at 9 p. m.

July 2. A very warm day, and a quiet one. There is a rumor that the enemy are leaving our front. We turn in at 9.

July 3. Another very warm day. I was detailed for picket duty at 6 p. m. No firing on our front.



July 4. A little rain about daylight. All quiet, but a picket line is a poor place to pass the "glorious Fourth of July." Relieved at 6 p. m.; returned to the regiment, and turned in at 11 p. m.

July 5. I wrote home and sent my diary. Turned in at 10 p. m. Quiet all night.

July 6. We turned out at 6. A pleasant but very hot day. The boys receive their mail. All quiet.

July 7. Another warm day. All quiet until 6 p. m., when we were relieving the pickets. The Rebels began to shell us, and several of our brigade were wounded. The firing ceased in about a half-hour, and the rest of the night was as usual.

July 8. All quiet to-day until 6 p. m., when an artillery duel commenced and kept up for a half-hour, but the shells went over our heads, doing no damage. Turned in at 9 p. m., as there was no further disturbance.

July 9. Another very warm day. The Rebels have fired on an average two shells every ten minutes, but all go over us. We turn in at 9 p. m.

July 10. We were turned out in lively fashion at 3 o'clock by minie balls-zipping close over our heads. These were the first shots fired by the pickets since we occupied these works. They stopped at daylight. Turned in at 9, and quiet prevailed at night.

July 11. We turned out at 5, and everything was quiet until 5.30 in the afternoon, when the enemy began to shell us again. The first shell struck in our regimental headquarters, and exploded directly under our commanding officer, Colonel P. S. Davis, fatally wounding him. He died at 7 p. m. His mind was clear, and he continued to converse and give directions up to the last. The surgeon of the Thirteenth, who was sitting with him at the time, was injured but slightly. Lieutenant-colonel Charles L. Pierson, afterwards General Pierson, succeeded to the command. Colonel Davis's body was embalmed and sent home, and there was a public funeral in Cambridge, where the Grand Army Post is named in his honor. His remains are interred in Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

July 12. We turned out at 1 in the early morning. I was



detailed for picket, and went out at 2 o'clock, with about seventy-five to one hundred men, as was the general number from each brigade. We were relieved at 6 p. m. Our regiment was moved a little to the rear, into a new fort not yet finished. The men worked on this night and day till August 15. This fort covered about three acres, or enough space for a whole brigade. It was called Fort Davis, in memory of our late colonel. I have been in it twice in later years, in 1899 and in 1902. It is situated on Jerusalem Plank Road, a mile or more from Petersburg, and next to Fort "Hell" or Sedgwick. Fort Mahon (Rebel), which our men called Fort "Damnation," was opposite. In building our fort, we dug a trench twenty feet wide and ten feet deep, and threw up the rampart on the inside. Thus there was eighteen or twenty feet of banking. The fort was dug square and with a diagonal through it. We had a magazine in the fort, and two wells were dug for supplying the men with water. Besides our brigade, we had with us the Ninth Massachusetts Battery, which suffered so terribly at Gettysburg. It was known as Bigelow's.

July 13. We turned out at 6 a. m. I was detailed for fatigue duty with sixty men from 3 to 6 p. m. This was the length of time the men would work upon the fort, when another squad would take their places. The work went on at night full as rapidly as by day.

July 14. I was detailed for fatigue duty again at midnight (morning), and worked till 3 a. m., when the whole brigade turned out, expecting an attack. But everything remained quiet, and we turned in at 9 p. m. The veterans and recruits of the Thirteenth Massachusetts Volunteers were transferred to our regiment, one hundred and three in number.

July 15. We turned out at 4 a. m. and policed the grounds (i. e., cleaned them up); weather very warm. General Warren, our corps commander, laid out camp, and we pitched our tents accordingly. That day we held a Masonic meeting in one of our pits. Turned in at 9 p. m. and slept all night.

July 16. Out at 4 a. m. Cool weather and a quiet day. At the lodge meeting yesterday it was voted to pay the funeral expenses of the late Colonel Davis.

Sunday, July 17. Turned out at 4 a. m. Pleasant, warm, quiet. I was detailed for fatigue from 9 a. m. to noon and from 6 to 9 in the evening. A whiskey ration was given out to-day (given sometimes on fatigue a gill to each man). I had one hundred men that night, and there were eight canteens, or twelve quarts, for me to give out. I dealt out one-half gill, and so had four canteens left. I did this for fear some of the men would get intoxicated. I lay down with the whiskey under my head, and must have fallen asleep, for when I woke the whiskey was gone. It was easy to tell who stole it, for some half-dozen of the men were in a foolish condition. That day we had an inspection by the brigade commander. This was Sunday. Our chaplain was Edward Beecher French, an enlisted soldier, who was raised to chaplain. We did not have much use for him in that campaign, as little was done in the way of trying to hold religious services.

July 18. We turned out at 5 a. m. A few drops of rain fell towards dark, after a day of threatening weather. We have another inspection. Captain Willard Kinsley and I go down to a creek and take a bath. We get back about 9 p. m. (Our position here was seventeen or eighteen miles from the James River, and south of Richmond.)

July 19. We turned out at 5 a. m. I was detailed for fatigue, and relieved at 7 p. m. It rained all day. I had a letter from home, and wrote one in return.

July 20. We turned out at 5 a. m. Rain at intervals, but clearing at night. At 9 p. m. there was some firing on our picket line, probably a quarter of a mile in front of us. The enemy kept up a heavy cannonading nearly all night. I turned in at midnight.

July 21. Turned out at 5. I am on fatigue duty again. About dusk the enemy cannonade us, and keep it up the greater part of the night. They were peppering Fort Sedgwick ("Hell").

July 22. Not much doing all day. We turned in and slept well all night.

July 23. We turned out at 5 a. m. Cool, pleasant weather. I am detailed on picket for twenty-four hours, beginning after

dark. All quiet until midnight, when the enemy began a heavy cannonading on our right.

July 24. Cool and pleasant, all quiet until 4 p. m., when the enemy opened on us with their artillery. We didn't make much of a reply, as we were "sawing wood." They shelled our skirmish line some, which was unusual. One shell passed directly over my head and struck behind me, but fortunately did not explode. That night three men of my detail, Sixteenth Maine men, were wounded. The heaviest firing was at 6 p. m., as it rained hard till morning. We had a rough night.

July 25. They shelled us again to-day, but no one was hit. (Our opponents must have had very poor powder, for many of their shells refused to explode.) I was relieved at 8 p. m., and returned to the fort and regiment. The enemy threw a shell into our fort to-day for the first time.

July 26. We turned out at 6. Beautiful weather. The Second Corps moved out of the line to make a demonstration somewhere. (They returned the next day.) The Rebels shelled us from 5 p. m. to 10 p. m. They managed to put three shells into our fort, but no one was injured.

July 27. Turned out at 5 a. m. We are expecting an attack sure. Loads of ammunition have been brought up, and the men are more than ready. Heavy firing is going on at our right. Rumors are plenty. One man killed and two wounded on our picket line, men of our brigade, of the One Hundred and Fourth New York Regiment.

July 28. We turn out at 5 a. m. A dull day, with threatening rain. I was detailed for fatigue. All quiet through the day. At night I was detailed on picket. A quiet night. We were intending to advance our picket line, if possible, but the Rebels got the start by placing their videttes too near us.

July 29. Very warm. The enemy throw shells at daylight over our skirmish line, and again at 6 p. m. We on picket are relieved at 8 p. m. An order is given for the whole corps to turn out at 2.30 the next morning.

July 30. This order is obeyed, and our corps (the Fifth) moved to the right, into a trench just in the rear of the Ninth Corps, about a half-mile from our fort, and remained in line there

with the Second Corps on our right. At 4.44 that morning there was a terrible explosion right in front of us. A tunnel four hundred and ninety feet long had been dug to a point under a Rebel fort, since known as "the Crater." It was blown up with about two hundred and fifty men. This fort was at the right and front of Fort Sedgwick—our right. This was a signal for all the guns on our side to open, and the cannonading was terrible. This lasted till 8 a. m. Our Ninth Corps rushed up and took the Rebel fort and their works, but about 2 p. m. the enemy re-took them. Besides being driven back, we lost fully four thousand men, and all through mismanagement. We—that is, the Second and Fifth Corps—never received an order to advance. As a piece of engineering the mine, which was under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Pleasants, was well managed. That day the Northern army lost three men to the enemy's one. Who blundered? It is said that General Grant and General Meade did not take kindly to the plan from the first. Burnside, however, favored it. It seems as if Petersburg might have been taken then, instead of months later. That night the dead and wounded that had been lying between the lines all day, exposed to the glare of the hot sun, were brought in; most of them were in a terrible condition. We went back to the fort, and, except for the grumbling, everything went on as before.

July 31. We turned out at 5 a. m. Another extremely hot day. I was detailed for fatigue duty. Our lines were the same as before the Ninth Corps made the attack. The Rebels would not grant a flag of truce, because, it was said, a part of the attacking corps were negroes, who, by the way, had done nobly. Finally our wounded were all brought within the lines.

August 1 and 2. Turned out at 9 a. m.; very hot weather. There are rumors of a move, but both days have been quiet ones.

August 3. Turned out at 6 a. m. I was detailed for picket at 8 p. m., and had command of the One Hundred and Fourth New York pickets.

August 4. All quiet on the skirmish line. I was relieved from picket at 8 p. m. This day was appointed as a National Fast, and a religious meeting was held in the fort. (I succumb to toothache.)



August 5. Turned out at 6 a. m. (I had five teeth filled with lead by a private in One Hundred and Seventh Pennsylvania.) From 4 to 6 heavy firing.

August 6. Another quiet day.

Sunday, August 7. We had an inspection, as was usually the custom on Sundays.

August 8. Pleasant, but a very warm day.

August 9. Cloudy, with thunder, but no rain for us.

August 10. A quiet day.

August 11. I was detailed for picket at 8 p. m.

August 12. Everything was quiet on the picket line. A Rebel came into our line, who said he was from Cambridge, Mass. I sent him to the rear as a prisoner of war. He stated that he was in Richmond the Sunday before. Probably he was a "bounty-jumper." I was relieved at 8 p. m.

August 13. Heavy firing on our right to-day.

August 14. Sunday inspection. A rain began at 7 p. m., which continued through the night. Rumors of a move.

August 15. We turned out at 4 a. m., and a brigade of Burnside's colored troops took our places in the fort. Our whole corps was relieved, and we went back two miles to be held in reserve.

August 16. Turned out at 6. I was detailed with sixty men to work on Fort Sedgwick. All work had to be done in the night, as no one could live there in the daytime. The Rebel Fort MacMahon was near, and their sharpshooters were nearer, and picked off men with every opportunity. We reached the fort at 10 p. m., and soon had our tools in hand. We had just begun work, when orders came to report back to the regiment at once. We arrived there at midnight, and were told that our corps was to march at 3 p. m.

Accordingly, August 17 we fell in, ready to carry out this order, but while we were waiting another order came to turn in for the night, as we were not to move until the next morning.

August 18. We turned out at 3 a. m. This was the day of the "Battle of Weldon Railroad," sometimes called that of "the Six-Mile House," or "the Globe Tavern." We began our march at 5 towards the railroad (southwest and to our left), a



distance of five or six miles, to the Yellow Tavern, or Six-Mile House. Here we found the Rebel pickets, and drove them before us. General Crawford's Division, to which our regiment belonged,\* formed a line of battle on the right of the railroad, and General Ayer, of the Second Division of our corps (the Fifth), formed on the left of the railroad. General Griffin's First Division (our corps) was in the rear tearing up the tracks, as we thus advanced towards Petersburg. We had proceeded about a mile and a half in dense woods, when Hill's Rebel Corps charged on us. (The Yellow house was behind us now.) Ayer's Division gave way, letting the enemy come around our left flank. There was nothing for us to do but to fall back or be captured. The Rebel line in front of us was within forty feet. The order was accordingly given to fall back. All were lying down flat on the ground at the time, the Rebels in the same position, also, but ready to shoot as fast as we stood up. Colonel C. L. Pierson was already badly wounded in the bowels by a minie ball. He was able to stand long enough to give the command, and then fell.† Immediately as I rose a bullet hit me in the right side. It broke the eighth rib and entered the lower lobe of the lung. I was taken off the field along with the colonel to the field hospital just back of us. Sergeant Bradshaw, afterwards second lieutenant, and Private Thomas, both of Company H, were leading me. The latter was shot in the wrist while supporting me, and tarrying a moment, in consequence was captured by the enemy. The command now devolved upon Captain F. R. Kinsley, of Company E. Our side was beaten for a time, but after being driven about one-quarter of a mile, the men re-formed and held the enemy. (See reports of the Adjutant-general for 1864, pp. 850-51.)

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\*After Spottsylvania, May 8 to 20, our <sup>division</sup> ~~brigade~~ was commanded by General Crawford, as General Robinson, our division commander, lost a leg at that time and was obliged to leave the front. General Crawford was the physician at Fort Sumter when it was taken in 1861.

†General Pierson is still living in Beverly. He was shot three times, on May 8, May 10, and August 18. After the first wound he was back in the fight in less than two hours; after the second, caused by a shell cutting across his breast, he was sent home. The third wound was a terrible one in the lower bowels and his life was long despaired of. He lay in the next bunk to mine in the field hospital.

August 19. The fight was resumed. The Rebels found a gap on our right and came through, thus flanking us again. Our artillery opened on them as they were between us and the artillery, and the shells did us as much harm as they did the Rebels. The men of both sides were now pretty generally mixed up in the woods. One squad, whichever was the bigger, would capture the other. This day our regiment was in the worst part of the line, and suffered more than any other, unless it was the Sixteenth Maine, which was captured almost to a man.

August 20. Both lines were rather quiet to-day, and both were stationed on either side of the railroad, back a little from where we first charged the enemy. We held the railroad, and they were bound to drive us off.

Sunday, August 21. The enemy attacked us, but were repulsed, and during the rest of the war our side held the railroad.

In this battle Company E—the Somerville company—suffered severely. Captain F. R. Kinsley was captured on August 19, and the command devolved upon Captain George S. Nelson, of Company A. Including Captain Kinsley, thirteen Somerville men were captured, of whom seven died in Rebel prisons. The seven were: James M. Allen, Corporal David Gorham, Corporal Fred A. Glines, John E. Horton, George H. Hatch, Charles G. Jones, and Frank W. Thompson. David Kendrick died just after he was exchanged. Captain Kinsley was paroled. John B. Canfield, Patrick Horgan, John F. Locke, and Sergeant John Kennedy, these four, brought up in Salisbury (N. C.) prison, and were paroled in March, 1865. In this fight John S. Roberts and William M. Herbon were killed, and the following wounded: Chandler G. Cole, Dexter Gray, George R. Harlow, and Lieutenant John H. Dusseault.

By this time only seven or eight men were left in Company E out of the original one hundred and one men who enlisted from Somerville in 1862. Of course the company had been supplied from time to time with raw recruits, or with men from other regiments. May 4, when the army crossed the Rapidan, there were five hundred and thirty muskets (men) in the Thirty-ninth Regiment—as many as were in any other two regiments in their brigade. On the morning of August 22, after this battle,

one hundred and one men and nine officers of this regiment reported for duty. On the nights of August 18 and 19 the wounded were sent back to the Division Hospital, two miles in our rear.

On August 21 the wounded, of whom I was one, were sent to the City Point Hospital on the *James*. On August 23 we turned out, and were told to get ready to go on board a boat which would take us to Fortress Monroe, where we arrived at dark, and were transferred to the *Atlantic*, an ocean steamer. I could walk at this time, and continued to do so till September 6 or 7. On this river boat there were seventy-five wounded officers of the Fifth Corps and many private soldiers, who were lying upon the deck and about the vessel. (There were two rows of cots on each side of the deck for the men who had lost a limb or two, between two and three hundred, at least. I had a state-room with Lieutenant Felch.) On August 24 we took in stores at the fort, and started for Philadelphia at 5 p. m. We reached Philadelphia at 7 p. m. August 25, and were taken in carriages to the Soldiers' Retreat, which was near the landing, and thence to a receiving hospital for the night. August 26 we were taken to McLellan Hospital, located in the suburbs of the city, perhaps five miles out ("Nice town").

September 3. I received leave of absence and started for home, via New York, where I arrived at 9 p. m., and put up at the Western House.

September 4. At 5 p. m. I started for Boston by train, Lieutenant Felch still with me. He was wounded in the shoulder. We reached Boston Monday, September 5, at 4 a. m. By September 10 my wound was troubling me severely. The bullet had been extracted an hour or two after I was wounded, but when I had my wound dressed at the hospital in New York, probably it was washed with an infected sponge, for gangrene set in, as it so often did in those days. For seven weeks I was on my back, and was reduced to one hundred and five pounds. But thanks to a kind doctor and home nursing, the wound finally closed in April, 1865, the same month that the war closed.

### Account of Company E After August 21.

Practically everything was quiet till September 15. The Regiment was at Weldon Railroad all this time. Many changes of position were made, new lines of works built, and strong forts took the places of the earlier breastworks.

September 15. The Regiment, together with the rest of the Brigade, was sent to support a cavalry reconnoissance on the left of the line; it returned without loss, after accomplishing the work.

September 16. The Second Brigade was assigned to garrison duty in forts on the left of the line. The Thirty-ninth Massachusetts was ordered to Fort Duchesne, on the rear line (still on the Weldon Railroad), and camped just outside the fort. This, with the 104th New York Volunteers, the Eleventh, Eighty-eighth, and Ninetieth Pennsylvania, formed the garrison, under Colonel R. Coulter, of the Eleventh Pennsylvania.

September 29. The garrison was sent out on reconnoissance over the same ground as on September 15, the Thirty-ninth acting as skirmishers. The enemy were found in force near Poplar Spring Church. After a brief skirmish, a return was ordered.

September 30. The Regiment moved from the camp outside into the fort, where it remained till October 16. It then left the rear, and took a position (still on the railroad) one-half mile in front of Duchesne, and one mile from the Globe Tavern.

October 26. The Regiment moved to the left and garrisoned Fort Conahey. The whole army made a reconnoissance in force to Hatcher's Run.

October 31. Having returned from the Run, the Regiment resumed its position in line near Fort Wadsworth.

November 5. Lieutenant-Colonel Tremlett (major of the Thirty-ninth) returned from draft-rendezvous, Boston Harbor, and took command of the Regiment, relieving Nelson.

December 1. The state colors, borne by the Regiment since leaving home, were returned to the adjutant-general because they were too worn for use.



December 5. The Regiment moved to the rear line, where the Fifth Corps was being massed, and went into camp.

December 7. The Corps started on a march on Jerusalem Plank Road, the Thirty-ninth taking the advance of the Infantry. After marching south some eighteen miles, the Nottoway River was crossed at 5 p. m., and after four more miles they halted for the night near Sussex Court House.

December 8. The next morning the march was resumed, when they passed through the place last mentioned and Coman's Well. Just before reaching Halifax Road, skirmishing was heard in advance, and the Regiment (designated Skirmish Regiment of the Brigade) was deployed and sent forward to hold the road. After establishing a line of pickets, the Regiment was left to guard the road, while the main column passed on. A little after dark the line was abandoned, and the Regiment followed the column, overtaking the Corps on the Weldon Railroad, near Jerrett's Station. The night was spent in destroying the road, burning railroad ties, etc.

December 9. A position was taken at the extreme left of the Corps, and the Regiment picketed the front of the Brigade, which was engaged in tearing up the road. At 6 p. m. it was withdrawn to Cross Roads above Bellfield, and one-half the Regiment was sent on picket and one-half to bivouac with the Brigade.

December 10. In the morning the troops began to return, and the Thirty-ninth was designated to cover the rear. In the afternoon the enemy made a dash on our rear and drove in our rear guard of cavalry. But they were checked by the shots of our Infantry. The enemy's cavalry followed closely all day, and captured many stragglers. Four of the Thirty-ninth Regiment were thus taken. The halt for the night was near Sussex Court House.

December 11. The march began at daylight. The Nottoway River was crossed at 4 p. m., and at 9 p. m. there was a halt for the night. On the next day, after a rapid march of twelve miles, the lines before Petersburg were reached, where we went into camp near Jerusalem Plank Road.

December 16. Here we were ordered to build huts for the



winter, and after a week's work the Regiment moved into its new quarters. This camp was occupied about a month, during which time there were many alarms, and the Regiment turned out often for real or imaginary danger. Drilling and fatigue duty occupied most of the time, with a large detail for picket and guard duty. Once the Regiment was selected as a guard for a wagon train, to go outside for bricks and boards; a deserted house five miles away furnished the material. A safe return was made.

Saturday, February 4, 1865. The Regiment had orders to move at a moment's notice. The next day orders came to report at Brigade headquarters, where we found the rest of the Brigade, and the Corps was joined near the Gurley House at 7 a. m. The march was continued towards Dinwiddie Court House. The halt for the night was within two miles of this place. The Regiment was detailed on picket till Monday morning, but the Brigade had already commenced its march towards Hatcher's Run. In the afternoon this was crossed and a line of battle was formed, the Thirty-ninth Regiment having the right of the first line. The enemy was found entrenched in strong works near Dabney's Mills. The first attempt to dislodge them was unsuccessful, but a second charge took the works, which, however, were abandoned for want of support; the troops recrossed the river and bivouacked for the night.

February 7. The line of battle was formed at 8 a. m. Our Regiment was deployed as skirmishers in front of the Brigade. They advanced and drove the enemy's skirmishers from three lines of rifle pits back into their works, which were near. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon our line was ordered to advance upon them, but as the assault was not successful, the line fell back to its original position, where it remained, exposed to a galling fire till late at night, when it was relieved. At Hatcher's Run February 6 and 7 E. B. Hadley was killed and Ambrose W. Coles lost an arm. J. W. Oliver was captured for the second time.

February 8. In bivouac all day.

February 9. The Regiment was on picket, and when relieved Friday (February 10) it returned to its old camp near

Jerusalem Plank Road to get the baggage of the men. It then broke camp and took a new position at the extreme left of the new line, near Hatcher's Run. A camp was laid out, and the men began once more to build winter quarters.

Thursday, March 9. The Regiment passed in review before Major-General John C. Robinson, our former division commander. Others that were under him participated in the review. [It may be mentioned here that General Robinson later on was lieutenant-governor of New York, and was present at a regimental reunion held at Somerville in 1887. He has since died.]

March 14. A review of the whole Fifth Corps took place before Major-General Warren.

March 16. There was another review before Secretary of War Stanton. On each of these occasions the Thirty-ninth Regiment acquitted itself well.

Saturday, March 25. The Regiment was ordered out about daylight to go to the right and assist in re-capturing Fort Steadman, which had just been taken by the enemy. The division marched back, and near the Gurley House was reviewed by President Lincoln. It was then ordered to the left as support to the Sixth Corps, but as no attack was made, it returned to camp about 9 P. M.

March 29. The spring campaign was entered upon. The Regiment broke camp about 3 a. m., and was marched to the left till Boynton Plank Road was reached. After some skirmishing the enemy was driven back from here and their lines taken. This position was held through the next day, the Regiment remaining in skirmish line during the whole time until the morning of the 31st, when a move was made still farther to the left to a point near Gravelly Run. Here the enemy was found in strong force. They attacked us, and our Regiment was sent out hurriedly as skirmishers to check them until the lines could be formed. This, however, proved impossible, and after suffering heavily, the men were obliged to fall back, leaving many dead and wounded on the field. (They were the designated skirmish regiment of the Brigade.) Lieutenant-Colonel Tremlett was wounded early in this engagement, and was conveyed to the

rear with much difficulty. At the hospital it was found necessary to amputate his leg at once. The command of the Regiment now devolved on Captain J. J. Cooper (Taunton, Company F). In this action, March 31, Corporal James Moran, Company E, was mortally wounded, and Captain Willard C. Kinsley (Woburn, Company K) received a wound which resulted in his death April 2. From second lieutenant he had been promoted to captain by being jumped over every first lieutenant in the line. By his death the Regiment lost one of its most popular and beloved officers, as well as one of its best soldiers. His remains were taken to his old home in Somerville, and he was accorded a public funeral. The Grand Army Post of Somerville was named in honor of him. Sergeant Elkanah Crosby helped to take him from the battlefield. As the enemy were close at hand, Captain Kinsley begged his men to leave him and take care of themselves, but this they would not do. After a rally had been made and reinforcements arrived, another advance was made on the enemy's breastworks. The ground that had been lost in the morning was regained. This position was held through the night.

April 1. The Corps left this part of the line, moved to the left, and united with the Cavalry under Major-General Sheridan. At noon lines were formed near the Five Forks for an assault. The Cavalry was on either flank, and our Corps in the centre; the Thirty-ninth Regiment was in the front line near the centre. About 4 p. m. the forward movement began; the enemy's skirmishers were found and driven back. A quick and spirited fight soon gave us an opening in the enemy's lines, and after this the victory was certain. Some five miles of the enemy's lines were taken, and the pursuit was followed up till long after dark.

The battle of Five Forks was the most successful one the Regiment was engaged in; almost the entire force of the enemy was captured, and their rout was complete. Our loss was comparatively slight. Lieutenant Melville C. Parkhurst was in this engagement, in command of Company B (Roxbury).

Sunday, April 2. Soon after daylight the march was taken up towards the north and west. About 2 p. m. the South Side Railroad was crossed, not without some cheering, and after a

long march a halt was made for the night near Hickanoek Creek. Here a small force of the enemy formed, and our Regiment was sent out as skirmishers; but after a few shots were exchanged, no enemy could be found, and the night was without further disturbance.

April 3. The march was resumed early (for we were now following up Lee, who was on his way to Appomattox). This programme continued through the week, with occasional skirmishes which resulted in the capture of many prisoners. The march was rapid, and the troops were encouraged by evidences of hasty flight all along the route.

Sunday, April 9, found us at Appomattox Court House, in the immediate presence of the enemy. But soon after our arrival upon the field all hostilities suddenly ceased, and later in the day the entire army opposed to us surrendered. We remained here while the paroling of the enemy went on, until Saturday, April 15, when we broke camp and began the return march to Petersburg.

Sunday, April 16. We reached Farmville in the afternoon, where we received the sad news of President Lincoln's assassination. A gloom rested on the camp that night which will never be forgotten.

Friday, April 21. We reached Black's and White's Station in the forenoon. Camp was laid out and a halt made here. During the following days many of the officers and men of the Regiment, who had been in the hands of the enemy since August, returned from the paroled camp. Major F. R. Kinsley was of this number, and the command of the Regiment now devolved upon him.

May 1. We broke camp once more and began the march to Washington; passed through Petersburg May 3; through Richmond May 6; over the memorable Fredericksburg battleground May 9; crossed the Rappahannock for the tenth and last time; and halted Friday, May 12, at Arlington, near Fort Albany, and very near the first camp ground of the Regiment in Virginia.

May 23. The Regiment took part in the grand review of the army in Washington, returning to camp in the afternoon.



June 2. The mustering out of the Regiment began, and Sunday, June 4, we broke camp and reported in Washington for transportation to Massachusetts. The journey home was made quickly, with but few halts: one at the well-known Cooper Shop, which never allowed a soldier to pass through Philadelphia hungry; one in New York, where lunch was promptly provided by the New England Relief Association.

Tuesday, June 6. The Regiment arrived at Readville, and was assigned quarters in barracks there. The arrival home was saddened by the death of Colonel Henry M. Tremlett at his home on Beacon Street, Boston. He was a good commander, and much beloved by all for his distinguished courage.

It only remains to speak of the men of Company E, who, unless otherwise designated, entered service August 12, 1862.

Abbott, Jesse B., honorably discharged May 16, 1865; died in Cambridge February 18, 1873.

Allen, James M., taken prisoner August 19, 1864; died at Salisbury, N. C., November 23, 1864.

Arnold, William J., wounded May 8, 1864; honorably discharged May 20, 1865; died at Ashland in 1905.

Baker, William A., went out as corporal; reduced to private, June, 1863; discharged for disability October 26, 1863; died in Cambridge March 25, 1897.

Bean, George W., went out as corporal; taken prisoner October 11, 1863; in prison seventeen months; discharged from service May 12, 1865; on the Somerville police force; retired; lives in Cambridge. *40 Columbus Ave. Somerville*

Belding, Charles H., transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, March 31, 1864; lives at 1 Oak Terrace, Malden.

Benz, August, died on the transport Utica, going down James River, October 5, 1864.

Brotchie, James, one of the very few to remain with the company during its whole period of service; mustered out June 2, 1865; in the employ of Somerville many years; lives in Cambridge.

Bodge, George A., enlisted as private; promoted to corporal; to sergeant; to first sergeant; commissioned second lieutenant April 3, 1865; never ill, never on a furlough;

mustered out June 2, 1865; on the Somerville police force; died November 4, 1899.

Bolton, John T., on detached service, Ordnance department; mustered out June 2, 1865; died in Mexico April 23, 1885.

Boynton, William F., came as a recruit March 29, 1864; wounded August 18, 1864; mustered out January 12, 1865; died in Somerville in August, 1892.

*July 10<sup>th</sup> 1910* Bucknam, Davis P., enlisted as corporal; discharged for disability June 18, 1863; lives at 12 Vine Street, Somerville.

Byrnes, John, transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps February 15, 1864; lives at 202 Summer Street, Somerville.

Canfield, John B., taken prisoner August 19, 1864; in prison until March, 1865; discharged May 1, 1865; died November 12, 1897.

Carr, William M., enlisted in Company I, Fifth Regiment, May 1 to July 31, 1861; went out with Company E as corporal; discharged for disability December 9, 1862; died in Chelsea fifteen years ago.

Clark, Gustavus A., promoted to corporal; transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps; discharged June 1, 1865; lives at 164 Winslow Avenue, Somerville.

Cole, Chandler G., wounded August 18, 1864; returned February 23, 1865; mustered out June 2, 1865; not living.

Coles, Ambrose W., wounded February 7, 1865 (lost an arm); discharged May 16, 1865; died in Somerville in December, 1882.

Collett, Herbert, discharged February 8, 1863; died in Philadelphia since 1899.

Conner, Thomas, discharged March 12, 1863; died some fifteen years ago.

Crosby, Elkanah, enlisted in Company I, Fifth Regiment, May 1 to July 31, 1861; went out with Company E as corporal; promoted to sergeant; one of the few to remain with the company during its whole period of service; mustered out June 2, 1865; lives at 110 Hudson Street, Somerville.

Crowley, Daniel, musician (drummer); was with the company during its whole term of service; mustered out June 2, 1865; ~~lives in Peru, Ill.~~ *died Aug 25<sup>th</sup> 1910*

Cutter, George, deserted June 3, 1863; afterwards seen in a New York Cavalry Regiment.

Davis, Amos F., detached for special service; came back to the Company May 26, 1865; mustered out June 2, 1865; lives in Dorchester.

Dodge, Albert H., deserted December, 1864; has died since the War; came from Nova Scotia.

Dodge, William H., brother of Albert H., discharged for disability May 18, 1865; died twelve years ago.

Dusseault, John H., went out as first sergeant; promoted to second lieutenant October 20, 1863; promoted to first lieutenant September 8, 1864; wounded three times, slightly at Spottsylvania; severely wounded August 18, 1864, at Weldon Railroad; discharged December 10, 1864; sealer of weights and measures; lives at 42 Sargent Avenue, Somerville.

Dyer, Jonathan C., transferred to the Navy April 22, 1864; died in Somerville about fifteen years ago.

Edlefson, Charles E., injured December, 1862; discharged February 26, 1863; died in Somerville December 24, 1891.

Emerson, Samuel, went out as teamster; discharged for disability, or perhaps transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps; mustered out June, 1865; on the Boston police force; died, no date.

Fairchild, Willard C., transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps some time in 1863; ~~died in the vicinity of Worcester more than ten years ago~~ *lives at 10 Lincoln St. Pittsburg Mass*

Farrar, George A., wounded June 18, 1864; discharged later; died in Somerville June 27, 1901.

Fay, Walter, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps August 1, 1863; died in Somerville September 25, 1904.

Felker, Samuel O., promoted to corporal; killed in battle May 10, 1864.

Fellows, Charles C., detached for special service, Ambulance Corps, from August 5, 1863, to May 2, 1865; mustered out June 2, 1865. *died Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 1897*

Fitcham, Charles E., went out as corporal; transferred to Vet-

- eran Reserve Corps in 1863; discharged September 23, 1864; died several years ago.
- Fuller, John E., wounded June 18, 1864; discharged February 12, 1865; on the Somerville police force; retired; lives at 79 Glenwood Road.
- Gilcrease, Elijah H., discharged April 22, 1863; died in Somerville February 18, 1898.
- Giles, Joseph J., enlisted in Company I, Fifth Regiment, May 1 to July 31, 1861; went out as first lieutenant with Company E; discharged at Washington August 23, 1864; lives in Somerville.
- Glines, Frederick A., promoted to corporal; taken prisoner August 19, 1864; died in prison, Salisbury, N. C., January 6, 1865.
- Gorham, David, promoted to corporal; wounded May 12, 1864; taken prisoner August 19, 1864; died in prison, Salisbury, N. C., December 10, 1864.
- Graham, William L., came home on five-days' furlough, and deserted June, 1863; from Nova Scotia.
- id Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 1911* Grant, Edward L., on detached service from September 13, 1863, to May 20, 1865, Ordnance Department; mustered out June 2, 1865; lives at 177 Washington Street, Somerville.
- Gray, Dexter, wounded August 18, 1864; discharged May 17, 1865; died some twenty years ago.
- Hadley, Eugene B., killed in battle February 6, 1865.
- Hale, Edward M., went out as second sergeant; on detached service, April 6, 1864; mustered out June 2, 1865; served in the Adjutant-General's Office, War Department, Washington, long after the War; last living in Passaic, N. J.
- Hafford, John, discharged June 20, 1863; died November 15, 1905.
- Hanley, John H., discharged August 12, 1863; died more than twenty years ago in Somerville.
- Herbon, William M., killed in battle August 18, 1864.
- Harlow, George R., promoted to corporal May 1, 1864; wounded May 10, 1864; wounded August 18, 1864 (lost an arm); discharged March 17, 1865; lives at Chattanooga, Tenn.



Hatch, George H., taken prisoner August 19, 1864; died in Salisbury prison February 1, 1865.

Hills, George A., discharged January 29, 1863; lives in Springfield, Mass.

Hagan, Patrick, discharged April 21, 1863; claimed to have served in the Crimean War; died many years ago.

Horgan, Patrick, taken prisoner August 19, 1864; returned May 20, 1865; returned with the Company and mustered out June 2, 1865; died twenty years ago.

Horton, John E., promoted to corporal July 1, 1864; wounded May 8, 1864; taken prisoner August 19, 1864; died in Salisbury prison January 6, 1865.

Howe, Henry E., taken prisoner October 11, 1863; died at Andersonville, Ga., November 22, 1863.

Hyde, Richard J., enlisted in Company I, Fifth Regiment, May 1 to July 31, 1861; went out as sergeant with Company E; taken prisoner October 11, 1863; died at Andersonville August 13, 1864.

Hyde, Thomas L., wounded May 8, 1864; discharged March 9, 1865; last heard from in New York City in the 90's.

Jones, Charles G., taken prisoner August 19, 1864; died in Salisbury prison November 23, 1864.

Kelly, Thomas, discharged October 27, 1863; lives in Medford.

Kendrick, David, taken prisoner August 19, 1864; died in hospital at Annapolis, after an exchange, March 15, 1865.

Kennedy, John, promoted to sergeant; taken prisoner August 19, 1864; escaped; re-captured; finally returned; discharged May 15, 1865; died at Soldiers' Home, Chelsea, July 24, 1898.

Kenneston, Elliot, discharged April 21, 1863; died soon after the War.

Kinsley, Frederick R., second lieutenant Company I, Fifth Regiment, from May 1 to July 31, 1861; went out as captain of Company E; promoted to major July 13, 1864; promoted to colonel June 7, 1865; taken prisoner August 19, 1864; paroled March, 1865; lives at ~~Dorchester, N. H.~~  
(Cheever P. O.).

*63 Hadley St Lowell Mass*

- Kinsley, Willard C., enlisted in Company I, Fifth Regiment, from May 1 to July 31, 1861; went out as second lieutenant of Company E; promoted to first lieutenant November 13, 1862; to captain March 30, 1864; wounded June 17, 1864; mortally wounded March 31; died April 2, 1865.
- Locke, John F., taken prisoner (Salisbury, N. C.) August 19, 1864; returned May, 1865; discharged May 26, 1865; assistant in Public Library, Boston.
- Lovett, Washington, taken prisoner October 11, 1863; died at Andersonville, Ga., July 12, 1864.
- McCarthy, John, transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps September 12, 1863; died in Somerville November 2, 1907.
- McGurdy, Alexander, served all through the War and came home with the Company; mustered out June 2, 1865; died some twelve or fifteen years ago.
- McJunkin, Samuel, musician (bugler); served throughout the War and came home with the Company; mustered out June 2, 1865; died in Somerville May 9, 1887.
- McNall, George, served as captain's cook most of the time; served throughout the War and came home with the Company; died in Somerville fifteen years ago.
- McQuade, John, discharged January 23, 1863; died, no date.
- Merritt, John S., detailed for special service, Construction Corps, December 6, 1863; mustered out June 2, 1865; lived a few years after the War; buried in Somerville Cemetery.
- Mills, Edwin, went out as sergeant; promoted to sergeant-major; to second lieutenant January 8, 1864; wounded May 10, 1864; discharged October 19, 1864; lives in Arlington.
- Moran, James, promoted to corporal; wounded March 31, 1865; died at Washington, D. C., April, 1865.
- Moulton, William, went out as servant to his cousin, who was adjutant of the Regiment; later enlisted in Company E; wounded May 23, 1864; died at Wakefield, 1905.
- Myers, George, promoted to corporal; wounded May 23, 1864; died in Florida December 30, 1896.

Newell, James H., musician (bugler), transferred early to the Veteran Reserve Corps, no date; died, no date.

Northey, George A., wounded and taken prisoner May 8, 1864; discharged March 6, 1865; died in Malden September 4, 1902.

Odiorne, William, wounded May 12, 1864; mustered out June 2, 1865; died some fifteen years ago.

Oliver, Francis J., taken prisoner October 11, 1863; died at Andersonville October 10, 1864.

Oliver, Judson W., enlisted in Company I, Fifth Regiment, from May 1 to July 31, 1861; went out as sergeant; taken prisoner October 11, 1863; released April 16, 1864; taken prisoner again February 6, 1865; mustered out June 2, 1865; on the Somerville police force; died April 7, 1908.

O'Neil, Henry, discharged May 15, 1863; died in Somerville, no date.

O'Sullivan, John, wounded June 18, 1864; mustered out June 2, 1865; died in Cambridge November 19, 1875.

Paine, Jeremiah T., died in hospital October 13, 1863.

Palmer, William D., promoted to corporal; to sergeant; killed in battle May 8, 1864.

Parkhurst, Melville C., went out as corporal; promoted to second lieutenant, Company B (Roxbury), September 8, 1864; to first lieutenant January 15, 1865; commissioned captain June 7, 1865; Chief of Police, Somerville; resides at 56 Columbus Avenue, Somerville.

Perry, Gideon W., put on special service, September 8, 1864, to May 20, 1865; mustered out June 2, 1865; lives at West Fairlee, Vt.

Pinkham, Horace W., discharged December 9, 1862; dead (?).

Powers, Robert, killed in battle, May 10, 1864.

Roberts, John S., killed in battle August 19, 1864, while carrying the Brigade color.

Rollins, Sumner P., a half-brother of Kenneston; died November 22, 1862.

Shaw, Henry, detailed to special service (hospital duty), October 3, 1862, to May, 1865; mustered out June 2, 1865; lives at 121 Cross Street, Somerville.

Shaw, John B., brother of the above; detailed to special service (hospital duty), August 5, 1863 to May, 1865; mustered out June 2, 1865; address, 121 Cross Street, Somerville.

Skehan, John, discharged February 9, 1863; probably not living.

Smith, Addison, discharged July 1, 1863; died in Somerville June 25, 1895.

Stevens, Leslie, had seen service earlier; went out as corporal; discharged January 25, 1863; lives at Canton, Mass.

Stickney, Hiram C., discharged April 22, 1863; probably not living.

Thomas, William H., on special duty as guard for quartermaster's stores, January 12, 1864, to May 27, 1865; mustered out June 2, 1865; lives at 12 Essex Street, Somerville.

Thompson, Frank W., taken prisoner August 19, 1864; perhaps he died January 10, 1865.

Van de Sande, George, went out as corporal; promoted to sergeant; discharged August 22, 1863, to accept commission as second lieutenant in a regiment of colored troops; died since the war.

Whitmore, Joseph W., taken prisoner October 11, 1863; died at Andersonville, Ga., July 1, 1864.

Willcutt, William C., deserted in Washington September 9, 1862; arrested and sent to Fort Independence; discharged for disability; probably not living.

The Company originally was composed of three officers and ninety-eight enlisted men. William Moulton and William F. Boynton, who joined later, came from Somerville, and are included in this record, and make the number accounted for 103. In June, 1864, Company E was reinforced by some recruits from Massachusetts, and about forty men from the Twelfth and Thirteenth Massachusetts Regiments whose time had expired transferred to our Company. In all, there were 146 men connected with Company E during its term of service.



Number killed .....	8
Number died in Rebel prisons.....	12
Number died in camp or hospitals.....	4
Number wounded.....	18
Number discharged for disability.....	22
Number discharged for promotion.....	1
Number transferred to Invalids' Corps.....	10
Number transferred to United States Navy.....	1
Number on detached service.....	10
Number returned prisoners.....	8
Number deserted.....	4
Number musicians, not in battle.....	2
Number officer's cook, not in battle.....	1
Number present during the entire two years and ten months of enlistment.....	5
	<hr/>
	106
Names on two lists (wounded and prisoners).....	3
	<hr/>
	103

As nearly as can be ascertained, there are twenty-seven of the original 103 now living, April, 1908.















**DATE DUE**

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PHILLIPS ACADEMY



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Company E, thirty-ninth

infantry in the civil war

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